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Joachim Schmitt

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EXAMINER

SWARTZ, RODNEY P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1645

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/09/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicants' Response to Office Action, received 18 March 2009, is acknowledged. Claims 31, 33, 34 and 42 have been amended.
2. Claims 27-35, 38-43, 45, 46 and 48 are pending and under consideration.

Rejections Withdrawn

3. The rejection of claims 42 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for identity of encoded polypeptide, is withdrawn in light of the amendment of the claims.

Rejections Maintained

4. The rejection of claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for identity of encoded polypeptide, is maintained.

Applicants' argue that the amendment of claim 31 obviates the rejection.

The examiner has considered applicants' argument, in light of the amendment of the claim, but does not find it persuasive.

As newly amended, claim 31 is drawn to an isolated polypeptide, which is encoded by the isolated polynucleotide of claim 27 or 28, wherein the isolated polypeptide is encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or 3.

Claim 27 is drawn to an isolated polynucleotide which encodes for a protein with trans-sialidase activity, and which comprises one of the nucleic acid sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and 3.

Thus, it is unclear if the trans-sialidase activity is restricted to that part which is encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or 3, or includes the unknown regions of the

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protein encoded by the unknown regions of the polynucleotide which "comprises" either SEQ ID NO:1 or 3.

Conclusion

5. Claim 31 is rejected.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Rodney P. Swartz, Ph.D., Art Unit 1645, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 7:30 PM EST. Thursday is the examiner's work at home day.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, please contact the Examiner's Supervisor, Robert B. Mondesi (571)272-0956.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Rodney P. Swartz, Ph.D./

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1645

June 7, 2009